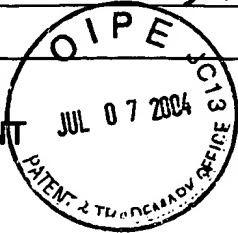


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IFW GP-1636

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|---|---|-------------------|
| AMENDMENT Address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 |  | |
| | Attorney Docket | BERK-005 |
| | First Named Inventor | Liu <i>et al.</i> |
| | Application Number | 09/721,543 |
| | Filing Date | November 21, 2000 |
| | Group Art Unit | 1636 |
| | Examiner Name | Q. Nguyen |
| Title: "Polynucleotide Ligands as Antiviral Agents" | | |

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated April 7, 2004 for which a three-month period for response was given. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Please make the following amendments in the Specification:

Page 1, below the title, insert:

--RELATED PATENTS AND APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application 60/167,509, filed November 24, 1999, now expired.--

Page 3, line 17 to page 4, line 12, replace with the following rewritten paragraphs:

Figures 1A-1B. ~~Figure 1B~~ Figure 1A. Schematic representation of the evolution *in vitro* procedures to select RNA analogs that bind to HCMV particles. The pool of DNA molecules contained a randomized sequence of 40 nucleotides indicated as N. (Figure 1B) Increased binding affinity of the populations of RNA analogs during selection from cycle 0 to cycle 16. Binding assays were carried out with different concentrations of virus and a trace amount (<100 fmol) of ligands. The values of binding affinity were calculated by dividing the percentage of bound ligands with the concentration of HCMV used (μg protein /ml). Each point represents the mean of duplicate measurements.